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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)  Recent increases in the understanding of clostridial genetics and pathogenesis prompted the planning of the First International Conference on the Molecular Genetics and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia. The specific aims of the Conference were to provide a centralized, broad-based forum on new developments, with particular emphasis on molecular biology, to encourage new insights, especially the identification of common themes in clostridial genetics and pathogenesis, to help train the next generation of clostridial researchers, to bring together basic and clinical scientists, stimulating the development of new ideas, perspectives, and collaborations, and to encourage reactivation of interest by the veterinary community in clostridial disease.  Overall, the conference included 82 talks and posters, presented in eight oral and two poster sessions. Dr. Madelaine Sebald presented the keynote address 'The Development of Clostridial Genetics'. The oral sessions included "Clostridia in Clinical Practice," "Genome Organization and Molecular Genetics," "Membrane-Active Toxins and Enzymes," "Neurotoxins," "Enterotoxins," "Host-Pathogen Interactions," "Regulation of virulence," and "Prophylaxis, Therapy and Diagnosis." There were also two afternoon poster sessions, which complemented the oral sessions. Overall, the conference was well received by both participants and organizers.
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